(2) (a) Meriden Oct. 10, 1836

Revd. A. A. Phelps

5.2

Dear Sir— In answer to the several questions proposed in Yours of the 4th inst. We reply- That the friends of the Anti Slavery cause here, did defer from time to time the organization of a Society in the hope that Mr Granger would by & by unite with them, and that from his conversation with them in private, as well as from his remarks in their meetings, they had reason to expect it. At one meeting of the friends of the cause, held by his request, at his residence, he expressed himself decidedly in favor of forming a Society at no very distant period, but thought We had better postpone it for a short time, untill public opinion had ceased its violent opposition against such Societies. And in regard to the American Anti Slavery Society Mr G. Stated that although he disapproved of some of its measures, Yet, that he thought the Society had acted as wisely & prudently generally, as any other benevolent Society.

The vote passed at the meeting at which You was present, Was that "We deem it expedient to form an Anti Slavery Society."

— Mr Granger was settled here the 10th day of March last and that meeting was held about the 30th of April—

— At that meeting there was a Committee appointed who were authorised to consult with Mr Granger respecting the formation of a Society and to call another meeting at such time & place as they should deem expedient.

Individuals in

The Society was so far formed as to adopt a constitution and elect some of its officers the Monday previous to Mr G's preaching on the subject of Slavery. The question whether the Society would become auxilliary to the American was not definitely settled untile the next meeting after. at which time that part of the Constitution was unanimously adopted. Some individuals who had previously to Mr G's preaching thought it inadvisable to form a Society, came forward immedeately after and united with it.—

The precise votes at the meeting of the Congregational Society as they stand on the Society's record are as follows. Viz

Voted. To instruct the seating Committee to provide seats for the colored people who wish to attend meeting in this House—

Voted— To permit the Meriden Anti Slavery society to meet in the Lecture room# of this House to complete the organization of their Society, and hold meetings occasionally as they may wish if such meetings do not interfere with previous appointments by the Society—

The society meeting at which the above votes were passed, was its regular annual meeting. We should think however that there was not quite as large a number present as usual—— (no break)
The votes stood, relative to permitting the Anti Slavery Society to have the use of the Lecture room, 9 for and 4 or 6, We think 4 against— several present not voting. No previous effort had been made to have this vote passed by the society and there was no advantage taken of any circumstances connected with the meeting.

We do not recollect as there was any thing said in relation to allowing the Colored people the privilege of renting slips—

The lecture room is the basement story of the meeting house, & has been used for a school room & the holding of town meetings occasionally, as well as for society & religious meetings.

The colored people had complained of not having convenient seats, but we
~~The vote in relation to the Anti Slavery Society was opposed~~
We do not know as there is any disposition among the members of the Congl. Society to deprive them ~~colored people~~ of comfortable seats —

— The Vote, in relations to the Anti Slavery Society, was opposed on the ground, that it was improper to hold such meetings in the Lecture room, the House having been built and designed for meetings for public Worship and other religious meetings: that the House would be ~~in danger of being~~ liable to be injured - that it was an agitating subject, sowing discord & strife & division in the Church & Community & that it would be detrimental to the interests of the Society. —

We think your remarks in relation to Mr Granger's preaching on the subject of Slavery - his "out-
but-
out. against agents, the American Anti S. Society &c &c & his opposition to the formation of Societies "auxiliary to the American Anti Slavery society" - no carricature, unless a correct statement of facts may properly be called such; and as to its being unintelligible to your readers, We think it so plain that "he that runneth may read" and understand. —

Our Congregational Society meetings are not private meetings, & our Anti Slavery meetings surely cannot with any propriety be called such, inasmuch as the last ~~meeting~~ one was held in the lecture room, pursuant to public notice read from the desk on the Sabbath —

Such We believe to be a plain statement of facts in relation to the subjects upon which We are questioned. ~~We prefer not to have our names given to the public unless it is absolutely necessary.~~

~~Yours Respectfully~~
~~Phineas Hough~~
~~Fenner Bush~~
~~Julius Pratt~~
~~Homer Curtiss~~
~~Walter Webb~~
~~Harlow Isbell~~
~~Isaac I. Tibbals~~

~~P.S. The Lecture room is the basement story of the meetinghouse & has been used for a school room & the holding of Town meetings occasionally. as well as for Society & religious meetings-~~
~~Yours~~
~~Isaac I. Tibbals~~

PAID

Pd

MERIDEN
OCT
10
Ct.

Rev. A. A. Phelps
Editor of the Emancipator
New York

Individuals in
Meriden Ct.
Oct. 10. 1836.